

MEMORANDUM

TO: School Nurses and School Administrators in Vermont

FROM:

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SUBJECT: Materials Related to Mosquito- and Tick-borne Diseases for Schools

The beginning of the school year coincides with cooler temperatures; however, that does not lessen the risk of tick-borne diseases, such as Lyme disease, or mosquito-borne diseases, such as West Nile virus (WNV) infection and Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE). Tick-borne diseases, especially Lyme disease, are becoming common in many parts of Vermont. EEE has recently been identified in parts of the state, and it likely exists statewide. WNV has caused a small number of illnesses in several different counties since it was first detected in Vermont in 2000.

The enclosed materials were developed to assist in your efforts to keep students safe from diseases spread by mosquitoes and ticks.

- *Advisory: Recreational Activities and the Risk of Diseases Spread by Mosquitoes and Ticks*
- Tick-borne and Mosquito-borne Disease Prevention Procedures and Activities for Schools
- Recommendations for Getting Ready for the Outdoor Field Trip
- Tick Removal in the School Setting
- Sample letter: Notification to Parent/Guardian of Tick Found on Student

Please note that these are not requirements. They are intended to provide guidance to help you develop procedures and activities for preventing diseases caused by ticks and mosquitoes.

For more information, we encourage you to visit the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) website at www.healthvermont.gov and to link to tick-borne disease pages at http://healthvermont.gov/prevent/zoonotic/tickborne/Tickborne_diseases.aspx and the mosquito-borne disease pages at <http://healthvermont.gov/prevent/arbovirus/index.aspx>. If you have questions regarding ticks, mosquitoes or the diseases they may cause, please contact the VDH Infectious Disease Epidemiology Section at 802-863-7240 or 800-640-4374.